CTO

Cryptologic Technician Communications (CTO) perform a variety of duties associated with operating telecommunications systems across the global communications spectrum. Advanced AIS networking and information management skills ensure the rapid, secure movement of large volumes of data, voice, and video information to operating forces ashore and afloat. Initial training is located in Pensacola, Florida.

What they do

The duties performed by CTOs include:

- Providing telecommunications support to the fleet including air, surface, and shore locations

- Information processing using computer terminals observing all applicable security measures

- Computer network system management including LAN/WAN design, management, security, and upkeep

- Control, operate, and monitor communications systems and networks including satellite systems, network servers, patch panels, modems, router, multiplexers, and cryptographic devices

- Assures signal path quality and integrity using test equipment such as protocol analyzers, distortion test sets, spectrum oscilloscopes and state-of-the-art signal analysis equipment

Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education recommends specific semester hour credits in the associate, bachelor degree programs, and vocational certificate categories for basic and advanced courses completed, and expierences acquired in the CTO rating. The Department of Labor offers an accredited apprenticeship program leading to Communicator Certification.

Qualifications and Interests

Due to the nature of duties performed, applicants for CTO must be of exceptional character. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and meet eligibility requirements for continuous access to classified information. Eligibility for access to Top Secret/SCI material is determined by the results of a Single Scope Background Investigation.

Other important qualifications include good technical aptitude, resourcefulness, curiosity, writing and typing skills, manual dexterity, mathematical aptitude and ability to do detailed work and perform repetitive tasks. Equally important is the ability to work well with others in a team-oriented environment. Normal hearing is required.

Working Environment

Thirty percent of CTO billets are at sea where communicators work in secure compartments that house computers and communications devices. Ashore, CTOs work in secure office environments operating and managing computerized information processing systems and communications circuit control equipment. Normally, they are part of a communications watch team yet independent duty does exist. CTOs may also be assigned to aviation units and special warfare units. Assignments, including shipboard duty, are available to females.

Opportunities

About 1800 men and women serve worldwide in the CTO rating. Advanced training in automated data communications systems and network operation, using state-of-the-art technology is readily available. Advanced training in system programming, system analysis and software support functions is also available as the CTO progresses in the rating. Within a short period, today's CTO quickly develops highly marketable computer skills.

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CTO

The Jumpstart on an Elite Career
High tech, complex cutting edge systems and computers.

Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical and operational training in these ratings are available during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Class "A" Technical School	NTTC Pensacola, FL.	9 Weeks	Basic communication and computer/network theory; Communication techniques and platforms, basic network configuration; Communication troubleshooting theory and techniques; Cryptographic equipment operations; Communication security.	Group, computer assisted, and individual instruction with live application and technical lab scenarios

Following completion of basic technical training, graduates may expect assignments worldwide, with duty stations throughout the continental United States, Europe, Hawaii, and the Pacific Far East. CTOs have the opportunity to be assigned to ships, aircraft squadrons, and shore based commands throughout the world. There are limited opportunities for assignment to special warfare commands. All assignments are equally available to men and women. Normal tour of duty is three years.

All personnel now receive sea pay at sea (E-1 to E-9).

Related Civilian Jobs-Dept. of Labor Dictionary of Occupational Titles

Communications Station Manager
Computer Operations Manager
Cryptographic Machine Operator
Telecommunicator
Communications Technician
Computer Operator
Data Communications Analyst
Technician
Supervisor

Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this card is subject to change.

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